

## REVIEWS

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### "The Mander-Jones project"

MANDER-JONES, Phyllis. *Manuscripts in the British Isles relating to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific*. Canberra, Australian National University Press, 1972. xxiii, 697 p. NZ\$30.

The publication of this long-awaited guide is an event of the greatest importance. Originally proposed in 1963 by Dr R. A. Gollan and Mr H. E. Maude, two historians on the staff of the Australian National University, the idea was taken up by Sir Keith Hancock, Professor of History in the Research School of Social Sciences, and Sir Harold White, then National Librarian, both of whom persuaded their parent institutions to lend financial support. Miss Mander-Jones, formerly Mitchell Librarian, and then London representative of the Library of New South Wales and Joint Copying Project Officer, a manuscript librarian of vast experience, was secured as director of what deservedly came to be known as "the Mander-Jones project". Work was begun late in 1964, and now, eight years later, we have this magnificent volume. It was well worth waiting for.

The scope of the work is generously drawn. Geographically, it is defined as including material relating to "Australia and New Zealand, New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Antarctica, and the sub-Antarctic islands in the southern Pacific and Indian Oceans". "Manuscript material" is interpreted to include associated hand-drawn maps, drawings, paintings and printed items of "extreme rarity". The arrangement, following that of Wainwright and Matthews (1), is topographical; that is by country (England, Wales and the Isle of Man; Scotland; Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland), and within each country by county and then by repository; a system both logical and easy to use.

The documentary predominance of the metropolis, London, is very evident. Fully 374 pages of this guide are devoted to the records to be found there, and of these 131 refer to the Public Record Office, and a further 79 to both the British Museums, Bloomsbury and Kensington (Natural History) establishments. The guide does the archivist and historian the greatest service in elucidating relevant British governmental series. The Colonial Office classes, particularly c o 209, have long been known to New Zealand historians, and to a lesser extent those of the War Office and Admiralty. But how many researchers have known of, let alone used, the records of the Board of Trade, the Board of Customs and Excise, the Cabinet Office, the Privy Council, the Treasury, the Post Office, and even the Land and Emigration Commission within the Colonial Office itself, all

departments which exercised colonial functions? Particularly welcome are the close analyses of collections of private papers in the British Museum, including those of such notables as W. E. Gladstone, Sir Robert Peel, Samuel Butler, Sir Joseph Banks, and a host of less obvious figures such as Francis Place (letters from members of the Wakefield family) and Sir Charles Dilke. No longer will it be necessary to struggle through the monumental *Catalogue of additions to the manuscripts*. Other London repositories have their riches to reveal. The Beaverbrook Library (papers of Lloyd George), the Lambeth Palace Library, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew look to be amongst the most rewarding of the less well-known institutions. Missionary, other religious bodies, and learned societies are covered remarkably well. But perhaps the choicest discovery of all is emigration records contained in the Fawcett Library, an institution devoted to the achievements of women, such as those of the Female Middle Class Emigration Society, 1862-86. Indeed the contents of almost 100 repositories in London alone are described.

Outside London the collections of another 190 repositories and private individuals are considered. Oxford and Cambridge libraries are well represented, as also is the Scottish Record Office with the glorious archive of the New Zealand and Australian Land Company. The Newcastle and the Earl Grey papers are held in the manuscript departments of the Universities of Nottingham and Durham respectively, two collections of the very greatest importance for the history of New Zealand. The guide, so far as New Zealand is concerned, does not in fact reveal any new collections of the very first rank; the papers of those most prominently associated with New Zealand in the past, whether institutions or individuals, have long ago been sought out and used. Its great merit is the drawing together of a mass of lesser contributions scattered through the County Record Offices and in private hands, and hitherto only accessible, if at all, through the National Register of Archives in London. To work through the lists is to read a commentary on the nature of this country's links with Britain, political, economic, social, and religious. There is something here for everyone. My own eye lights upon the papers of E. W. Humphreys in the National Library of Wales relating to the Rock and Pillar Station, and papers concerning the Duke of Manchester's New Zealand estates in the Huntingdonshire County Record Office. Letters home from emigrants describing conditions in the colonies abound, as do business papers relative to the colonial investments of private individuals. A workable, though by no means perfect, index to names, places, and subjects completes the whole.

The guide does have some limitations, most of which are anticipated by the editor in her introduction. Inevitably the descriptions are uneven in length and quality varying from repository to repository; partly because the compilers often had to rely on lists submitted by others, but also because, very wisely, it was decided, as in the case of the Public Record Office, not to cover again ground already adequately covered in existing publications. The second limitation relates to completeness, or rather the lack of it. Such a guide of course can never be wholly complete, but it is most incomplete with regard to the records of businesses, particularly those without a formal archive. The records of Thomas Borthwick and Sons Ltd., Dalgety and Co. Ltd., National Bank of New Zealand Ltd., New Zealand Shipping Co. Ltd., Shaw Savill and Albion Co. Ltd., and the N M A Company of New Zealand Ltd., to specify just a few, all companies who have or

have had their head offices in London, are not described here. Nor are all repositories with relevant records represented; for example the Glasgow City Record Office holds passenger lists of P. Henderson and Co., in whose ships so many of Otago's settlers came from Clydeside.

Even so, this guide stands as *the* achievement in the field of Australasian archival and manuscript publication, and I can only echo the belief, stated by J. A. La Nauze and A. P. Fleming in their joint Foreword, that "it will receive and deserve the high compliment which librarians and scholars are accustomed to pay to an indispensable work of reference when they identify it by the name of its author", that is, as "Mander-Jones". Its physical form is worthy of its contents. Strongly bound and finely printed, it deserves a place in every university, large public, and New Zealand history library. It will also be the companion of every New Zealand and Pacific scholar on sabbatical in the United Kingdom. At \$30, however, it is unlikely to find many casual buyers.

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#### Reference

- 1 Wainwright, M. D., and N. Matthews. *A guide to western manuscripts and documents in the British Isles relating to South and South East Asia*. London, OUP, 1965.

#### Automated circulation system

McCOLLUM, Sue, and Charles R. SIEVERT, eds. *The circulation system of the University of Missouri-Columbia library; an evolutionary approach*. Tempe, Ariz., LARC Association, 1972. 101 p. (LARC reports, v. 5, no. 2.)

This very detailed account of the University of Missouri-Columbia's experience in setting up and operating an automated circulation system provides a valuable insight into the problems that arise in such a system and how they can be solved. The library installed an IBM 357 data collection system in 1964 and in March 1966 an IBM 1440 computer was installed solely for the use of the library. This was later replaced by a System/360 model 25 but in 1970 processing was transferred to the University Data Center's System/360 model 40. The significance of these changes and the rewriting of programs that was necessary as a result of them are all explained as part of the evolutionary approach adopted in the report. It is particularly valuable because instead of merely being a description of achievements it gives a detailed analysis of each operation, the problems that emerged, and how they were solved. In addition, there are many examples of printouts, stationery, and flow charts, which illustrate the processes described in the text. Because of the degree of detail and the many illustrations this report will be very useful to any person planning an automated circulation system for an academic library.

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